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BIG THREE MEET IN BRUSSELS

Authorise Negotiations With West German Govt.

COMMENT

The first two tasks of the meeting of the 12 Atlantic Pact nations' Foreign and Defence Ministers at Brussels — approval of German participation in the defence of the West and the integrated European army, and the appointment of General Eisenhower as Supreme Commander — have been fulfilled with a speed which underlines European and American realisation of the gravity of the international situation.

It must be admitted, however, that Western security in the critical months ahead depends essentially not on the agreements reached at Brussels (and they will undoubtedly be many) but on the actual power that the Atlantic Pact countries themselves can put into Western Europe and into Germany itself. It is also plainer than ever, following statements by the German Chancellor, Dr Adenauer, and the Opposition leader, Dr Schumacher, that reinforcement of continental Europe will have to be made before the Germans themselves will willingly and fully join in the Western defence organisation. All hope of progress towards general security for the whole of Europe and towards an eventual German share in the task requires the Ministers now meeting at Brussels to concentrate first on building up the strength of their own countries.

The demands of necessity in Korea have already held up the wider Western preparations for defence in Europe, and have therefore made negotiations between the Atlantic Pact powers and Germany more difficult. It can only be hoped that formal approval of the plan at Brussels will be followed by speedy agreement with the German Federal Government at Bonn.

As to Russian reaction to the firm decision to introduce German contingents into the European army, the sense of danger on the Continent leads to desire that Russia's intentions should be tested in the four-power talks that Moscow has proposed.

Parcel Post Restrictions

Washington, Dec. 19. The Post Office Department today placed restrictions of mail and parcel post to Hongkong, Red China, including Manchuria and Tibet, and Macao. Formosa was not affected.

The action was the result of the new export control regulations ordered by the Commerce Department.

Ordinary letters and post cards will still be accepted without export licences. Printed matter will be accepted without licences for Macao and Hongkong. Parcel post must be licensed for Hongkong, Macao and Tibet. Parcel post service to China proper has already been cancelled. — United Press.

Better Export Ban News

The PRO yesterday afternoon announced that the Hongkong Government has requested the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the strongest high-level representations be made to the United States to relax the total embargo on exports from the United States to Hongkong.

It was also officially disclosed that the Department of Commerce and Industry had been in touch with the economic expert attached to the US Consulate here, who had sought clarification of the terms of the American embargo as applied to Hongkong.

General feeling among the local business community is that there is every reason to take a confident view of the situation.

ACTION PREDICTED

This confidence today has received a flip by a Reuter report from Washington quoting a Commerce Department spokesman as saying that America intends to lift the ban on exports to Communist countries sufficiently to allow the shipment of goods to Hongkong and Macao for "minimum essential civilian requirements."

The spokesman told Reuter that the recent ban was in the interests of American security but he added that America had no desire to strangle the colony of Hongkong.

She was not going to allow the shipment of large quantities of supplies which might be transhipped to Communist China.

Common European Defence Effort

Brussels, Dec. 19.

The "Big Three" Foreign Ministers have authorised the Allied High Commissioners to start negotiations with the West German Government on associating Germany with the common Western European defence effort.

The three Ministers—Mr Ernest Bevin (Britain), Mr Dean Acheson (United States) and M. Robert Schuman (France) met this afternoon at the Belgian Foreign Office immediately after the North Atlantic Council meeting.

In addition to their West Germany defence agreement, they also approved the text of the reply which would be sent to the Soviet note proposing a four-Power conference on Germany, according to usually well-informed quarters.

The meeting followed the conference of the full 12-nation Atlantic Council which had earlier approved the appointment of General Dwight Eisenhower as Atlantic Army Supreme Commander.

At the early part of the meeting the Foreign Ministers went into a super-secret session, turning all their advisers out of the room.

A spokesman said that the three Powers' reply, to the Russian note would be submitted tomorrow to the Western Union Consultative Council before being sent to Moscow.

TUNED TOGETHER

The French High Commissioner in Germany, M. Andre Francois Poncet, said that the reply would be sent "without delay within the next few days."

Each of the three Powers would reply separately, he said, but the terms of the replies would be similar.

"At least they will be tuned together like violins," he added.

M. Poncet said that the three High Commissioners would get in touch with the Western German Government as soon as they returned from Brussels with a view to hearing the German view on Germany's participation in Atlantic defence.

He added that at the North Atlantic defence talks due to be held in Paris in January, representatives of the German Federal Government would attend as fully fledged participants.

Within four hours of the announcement that General Eisenhower had been appointed Supreme Commander of Western European defence, the North Atlantic Council announced in Brussels that all national units assigned to him would be integrated into an effective force.

The Council also announced that American and French forces in Germany would come under the Supreme Command. Furthermore, Germany would assume a part in the common defence.

A spokesman said that a plan had been approved authorising the creation of German tactical air units to support German combat teams in the Atlantic army.

A Defence Production Board with wide powers would be established and a supreme (Continued on Page 8, Col. 1)

AMERICANS FORCED TO FALL BACK

Tokyo, Dec. 20.

American rearguards fell back in face of relentless Communist pressure on Tuesday into the besieged city of Hungnam and its five-mile waterfront.

The United States Third Division abandoned Yonpo airport outside Hungnam on Sunday. By Tuesday, the hammer blows of massed Chinese and North Korean forces had pounded the Americans back into the Hungnam pocket only two miles deep and five miles long.

"This is no Dunkirk beachhead because we hold air and fire advantages," United Press correspondent Jack Burby reported. "There is no panic. The men of the Third Division are confident."

Mines, booby traps and barbed wire tangles littered the ground yielded to the Communists in a series of withdrawals into Hungnam.

The Yanks believed that they were outnumbered at least two to one on front lines, Burby reported, and the Reds could throw in 11 divisions in the beachhead area.

United States forces methodically pounded every possible Communist attack around the clock with howitzers, self-propelled guns, heavy mortars, anti-aircraft and also Naval guns. —United Press.

Mr McIntosh's Departure Delayed

The departure for Singapore this morning of Mr D. W. McIntosh, Police Commissioner, has been delayed owing to the non-arrival of the aircraft from Singapore.

First reports from Kai Tak airport said that it was possible that Mr McIntosh would not be able to leave until later today.

The Police Commissioner has been invited to Singapore by the Governor, Sir Franklin Gimson, to advise on the best methods of bringing the Singapore police force to the highest pitch of efficiency for dealing with any sort of crisis.

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Actress Janis Carter, right, and some friends take time out to cheer up some servicemen, who were wounded in Korea and are now at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT'S HAND STRENGTHENED IN FACING WORLD ISSUES

London, Dec. 19.

The British Government is considered in political and diplomatic quarters here to have emerged from the two-day foreign policy debate in Parliament with hands greatly strengthened in its approach to the present world problems.

The debate, which was held at one of the most critical periods of post-war history, while the United Nations forces in Korea were suffering a severe military reverse, showed both a remarkable solidarity between the Government and the Opposition and a common failure to hit on a solution of the Korean problem.

The Government came under fire chiefly on the ground that it had "underplayed its hand" in its relations with the United States.

The view voiced by a former Conservative Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, Mr R. A. Butler, who closed the debate for the Opposition, was based on the current fear that Britain might be dragged into a war with China without being adequately consulted and without every means of conciliation having been explored.

Since it was throughout this period of the Korean crisis in more than daily contact with the United States Administration, the British Government was not in a position to disclose the extent of any pressure or influence which it had exercised in Washington.

But the strength of the feeling, on both sides of the House of Commons, that British Ministers must see that the British view was heard in the handling of the Korean crisis, resulted in an enormous strengthening of the British Government in its dealings with the United States.

MIXED POLICY

During the debate, the House of Commons provided an interesting glimpse of the working of the British Constitution. For the Opposition, in fact, aided the Government by saying constructively and yet critically a number of things about Britain's relations with foreign countries which could not be said by British Ministers.

Once said they became a factor of which the Ministers must take account.

British policy on the Korean question and Chinese Communism intervention, as it emerged from both sides of the House of Commons, and in which the front

bench acquiesced when the debate was wound up by the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, appeared as a mixture of determination to fight off Chinese attacks, combined with a wish to find a negotiated settlement.

Its main points appeared to be that:

1.—War with China must be avoided if conceivably possible.

3.—The atom bomb must not be used unless some unforeseen and overwhelming argument were to arise.

3.—No action by air power or other means must be taken against Chinese territory.

4.—The United Nations must stabilise and hold a military line in Korea.

5.—They must then seek contact with the Chinese Government with a view to negotiating terms for a political settlement.

NO GUIDANCE

The House as a whole ran out of ideas when it faced the question, raised by one of two backbenchers, of what could be done to get into contact with the Chinese Government and what would have to be done if it became clear that China wanted to fight the Korean campaign to a finish and would refuse to negotiate.

On these vital questions, there was no guidance from the Government benches. It was clear that they were the essential problems for top level discussions between London, Washington and other interested governments.

If the military situation were again stabilised, the first necessity would be to discover whether there were any terms in which China would be prepared to call off the fighting and whether these were acceptable.

Of the obvious channels, Peking and the Chinese Government delegation at Lake Success did not, in the early stages, prove very promising.

At the time of the House of Commons debate, the British Government was clearly still seeking for some means of testing China's real intentions without having established any common ground.—Reuter.

Shah's Fiancee Stricken

Teheran, Dec. 19.

Beautiful 18-year-old Soraya Esfandiari was stricken with fever on Tuesday, during the last week before her scheduled marriage to the Shah of Persia.

Court circles said Miss Esfandiari contracted typhoid shortly after she arrived here last month but that she recovered. It was feared she had suffered a relapse.

Court circles said Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi was extremely upset over his bride-to-be's latest illness and was ready to postpone the elaborate ceremony pending for Dec. 27, if necessary.

United Press.

Champion Sorcerer

Brussels, Dec. 19.

Jean Bodel, of Brussels, declared Belgium's champion sorcerer, called 1,000 spirits in 33 minutes and 10 seconds, an average of 30 spirits a minute.—Reuter.

CHINESE DELEGATION LEAVES

General Wu's Final Comment On Korea Problem

WANTS AID TO EUROPE CURTAILED

Washington, Dec. 19. Republican Representative Leon Gavin said today that his recent first hand look at Europe had convinced him that United States economic aid there should be drastically curtailed.

In a statement put in the Congressional record, Mr. Gavin said, "There has been a marked improvement in economic conditions during the past year and the contrast with the desperate situation which prevailed in 1947 is very heartening."

"It is my belief expenditure of further funds for economic recovery in Europe should, with a few exceptions, be drastically curtailed and promptly terminated."

"If the defence of Europe is to be prepared on any realistic basis," added Mr. Gavin, "the manpower and industrial capital of Germany must be promptly utilised."

Mr. Gavin called present plans for small German units in the European Army inadequate and entirely unrealistic. — United Press.

GERMAN SOCIALIST ADAMANT

Hanover, Dec. 19.

Dr. Kurt Schumacher, West German Social Democratic leader, said tonight that his Party would reject the Brussels decisions as long as the Allies failed to provide sufficient Allied troops to protect West Germany.

The Socialist leader said that the German contribution to Western defence could have no effect on the acute danger from the East since a German military contribution would need several years to prepare.

For the whole period of their rearmament the Germans would not be in a position to defend themselves and Allied troops were insufficient to protect them.

The Allies must display understanding in return for German goodwill, Dr. Schumacher said.

The Brussels communique was handed to Dr. Schumacher during a Party meeting in Hanover.

Earlier, he told the meeting, "We have the courage to say no now. We will also have the courage to say yes if conditions change."

"We want no national army but we accept an international army only if the others also no longer have national armies."

"One cannot defend oneself with men who are only half free." — Reuter.

Bill To Extend Trade Ban

Washington, Dec. 19.

Senator Herbert O'Connor (Democrat) introduced a Bill today to outlaw trading with nations "in armed conflict" with the United States, regardless of whether war had been declared.

Senator O'Connor said the bill would make it possible to cut off trade with any nation which was in a state of armed conflict with the United States. — United Press.

"Peace In Far East Only On Peking's Terms"

New York, Dec. 19.

The Chinese Communist delegation to the United Nations said just before its departure for home on Tuesday that peace could be restored to the Far East only on Peking's terms.

The seven men and two women delegates—loaded with nearly a ton of excess baggage—appeared happy and wished the American people "A Merry Christmas and Best Regards for the New Year!" before they left.

General Wu Hsiu-chuan told the Press the Korean war could be ended only on Peking's terms, which the Security Council rejected on November 30. These were the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea and leaving the Korean people to their own affairs.

The Communists paid \$1,621.39 at Idlewild airport for 1,835 pounds of excess luggage before departure. The excess comprised 53 assorted suitcases, bulging canvas bags, and cardboard cartons tied with rope. The markings on the packages indicated that they contained kitchenware, gramophones, cameras, radios, books and clothing purchased at swank Fifth Avenue shops.

Two secretaries from the delegation arrived at the airport 30 minutes before departure and insisted on staying with the luggage until it was loaded aboard the BOAC plane. Although this was contrary to usual procedure, they were allowed to remain.

It was learned the delegation had booked passage only to London where they are expected to board a Czech airliner for Prague, proceeding thence to Moscow and Peking.

A Party of Soviet bloc delegates headed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Jacob Malik saw the delegation off.

"TRICKERY AND PLOT"

Compared to their grim unsmiling appearance upon their arrival here, the Chinese delegates laughed and waved to the crowd, and General Wu tipped his two United Nations chauffeurs \$100 each.

General Wu told newsmen: "We came for the restoration of peace in the Far East. We submitted to the Security Council a proposal to prevent the war in the Far East from continuing or spreading. That was our proposal to stop the war."

"We believe that only by striving for a cessation of war may we get any real cease-fire. Any device which reverses this process is nothing but trickery and plot."

Although his mission failed, General Wu said, "we are not in despair." He repeated that Communist China would continually seek peace.

Cairo's Proposal To Arab League

Cairo, Dec. 19.

Egypt today proposed the postponement from Jan. 8 to Jan. 20 of the Arab League Political Committee's meeting which is to discuss a Syrian plan for Arab political, economic and military co-operation.

The meeting has already been postponed from Dec. 20 to await the return of Amman Pasha, Arab League Secretary-General, from the United States.

This Arab move to delay the meeting was seen as a tactic to prevent the Arab League from discussing the Syrian plan. — Reuter.

Another passenger on the BOAC Strato-cruiser was Mr. Leo Lamb, a Far Eastern expert of the British Foreign Office, who said it was "merely coincidence" that he was travelling on the same plane.

Mr. Lamb conceded, however, that after a Christmas holiday with his family in England he might go on to Peking.

Mr. Lamb was British Minister in Nanking until September 1949, well after the Chinese Communists had taken over the town. — United Press.

ANGLO-US ACCORD ON MATERIALS

Washington, Dec. 19.

Reliable American and diplomatic sources said today that United States and British economic experts have reached an agreement in principle for creating an independent supply and allocations board for raw materials.

The agreement must now be approved by the United States and British Governments before being submitted to other governments.

The experts first considered including the board within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, but subsequently concluded that it would be advisable to have some of the chief producing countries outside the NATO represented on the board. They decided, therefore, to recommend an independent board with headquarters in Washington or London.

The sources said the board would have a standing group composed of the United States, Britain and as few other nations as possible to make recommendations for purchasing and allocation of raw materials in short supply. It was understood that at this stage the composition of the board has not been decided on, but it is desired to have numbers of producers and consumers of raw materials to as small number as possible. — United Press.

Truman Powers Approved

Washington, Dec. 19.

The House Judiciary Committee unanimously approved President Truman's request for emergency war powers and Administration leaders hoped to get the bill through the House on Wednesday.

In the Senate, however, no action was taken. — United Press.

CHINESE LINK WITH LEFTISTS IN BURMA

Rangoon, Dec. 19.

There were signs of a growing link-up between Burmese Leftists and Communist China today following the split in the Burmese Socialist Party and the emergence of a strong pro-Communist political group favouring the policies of Mao Tse-tung.

The extreme Left Wing faction, led by Thakin Lwin, former Labour Minister and President of the Trade Union Congress of Burma, and Thakin Ghitumun, general secretary, has formed the Burma Workers and Peasants Party, which threatens to be a strong force in Burmese politics.

The new Party on Monday instigated a strike of 600 workers in the Burmese Army Ordnance Department.

Reasons for the move were said to be the Socialist Party's deviations from the ideals of Leninism on which the Party was originally based, and also, the Leftist faction said, on its "lack of democracy." — United Press.

Russia Building Vast Undersea Fleet

London, Dec. 19.

The new edition of "Jane's Fighting Ships" said today that Russia was building the greatest undersea fleet in history — a vast armada that might eventually total 1,500 modern submarines.

The 1950-51 edition of the "bible of the world's navies" also noted "persistent reports" that the Soviet surface fleet eventually would include seven to nine battle-ships, possibly designed as launching platforms for deadly guided missiles.

The new Jane's ranked the aircraft-carrier ahead of the battleship in its authoritative listing of the world's fleets, but said so far as was known there were no "flat tops" in the Russian navy.

"There is no confirmation of the report that Russia is to build three aircraft-carriers of 25,000 tons," it said.

At least six Russian battleships were in service, it added, "and the construction of one to three battleships is persistently reported."

It pointed out that new drawings of the 37,000-ton Russian battleship, Svyetlitskiy, indicated the addition of two towers to the ship's superstructure, possibly launching platforms for giant guided missiles. Jane's made it clear that Russia was placing the emphasis on building a strong submarine armada which might be able to drive superior surface ships from the sea in time of war. It said Russia at present has 330 to 370 submarines in service, 130 under construction, and 1,000 more in the pipeline stage. — United Press.

Mild Spy Scare In Australia

Sydney, Dec. 19.

Defectives are looking for four Chinese reported taking flashlight photographs of a large iron and steel works at Port Kembla, on the south coast.

Other Chinese have been seen photographing in daylight the refining and smelting works near the town.

The police believe the photographers were members of the crew of a ship berthed at Port Kembla. — Reuter.

"Elections" To Moscow's City Soviet

London, Dec. 19.

In Moscow's local elections to the City Soviet on Sunday, 99.99 of all registered electors voted and 99.79 cast their votes for the candidates of the Communist and non-party bloc, Moscow Radio said last night.

Only 0.21 percent of the total number of those who voted at Moscow's 1,452 polling stations cast their votes against the candidates of the Soviet Communist Party, the Radio added. Fifteen votes were declared invalid.

Local elections were held throughout the Soviet Union on Sunday to elect for a two-year term members of the Soviets which govern local affairs in municipal, rural and regional centres. — Reuter.

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All ready for the annual visit to Town, the Bertram Mills Circus were rehearsing at Ascot, and this picture shows Nero the lion making a fine jump over his trainer Alexander.—Central Press.

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Sheep-Stealing —1950 Style

Sydney, Dec. 19. Up-to-date sheep stealing gangs are using modern three-decker trucks and trained dogs in daring raids ranging across three States. The thieves raid systematically every few weeks in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland and are making tens of thousands of pounds because of the record wool and meat prices.

Station-owners and police are making secret plans to round up the gangs, who usually get ample warning of police activities from their efficient "bush telegraph."—Reuter.

Colombia Offer Accepted

Washington, Dec. 19. The State Department announced on Tuesday the acceptance by the United Command of Colombia's offer to send one battalion of infantry to Korea. A State Department spokesman said the estimated strength of Colombia's contribution would be 1,080 men. He told a Press conference the battalion was training, and that the State Department had no indication when it will sail for Korea. Colombia brings to 17 the total number of nations from whom the United Nations has accepted concrete aid for the task in Korea.—United Press.



Garrison In Hungnam Holding Positions: Fierce Air Attacks

Tokyo, Dec. 19.

United Nations fighters and bombers, screaming low over the North Korean roads, were today hitting hard at Chinese Communist reinforcements streaming south to join the Communist assault on the hard-pressed Allied perimeter at Hungnam.

Allied warships off the east coast port continued to hurl heavy shells into the Chinese Communist forces trying to push the fighting American garrison back towards the sea.

Carrier-based Navy and Marine planes, strengthened by the arrival of the escort-carrier Bataan, were throwing their full weight into the defence of the perimeter.

The Americans, after battling all night in the light of star shells against sharp enemy attacks, were holding all their positions, this afternoon's communiqué stated.

An airstrip six miles from Hungnam was overrun by the enemy during the week-end, it was disclosed.

The attacking Communists were said to have been joined by some North Korean units.

General MacArthur's Intelligence Staff said today that 18

rearmed North Korean divisions were now lined alongside over a quarter of a million Chinese Communists massed 70 miles north of the 38th Parallel.

NO SIGN OF ADVANCE

About 50,000 North Korean conscripts and recruits were also being trained in Manchuria, where they were safe from United Nations air attacks.

The great Chinese Communist force, ranged along the 39th Parallel 70 miles north of the main Allied line in the North-west, was under continuous air attack today but still showed no sign of striking.

They were said to have been joined by some North Korean units and pilots reported "every indication of increased enemy activity south of Hyesanjin" (on the Yalu River directly to the north, where the American Seventh Infantry Division units reached the Manchurian border four weeks ago).

LULL UNBROKEN

The lull in the North-West was still unbroken except for small patrol clashes. Here General Walton H. Walker's Eighth Army was strengthening its defence line covering Seoul, the Southern capital.

The North Korean Radio, broadcasting from Kanggye, in the mountainous North, claimed that Communist guerrilla forces in South Korea had now joined up and were advancing on the major cities of Taegu, Taejon and Pusan, the United Nations main port of supply.

Taejon and Taegu are key points on the road from Pusan to Seoul.—Reuter.

EMERGENCY CABINET IN MANILA

Manila, Dec. 20.

The Philippine nation was alerted for a possible third world war as the highest policy makers met in an emergency session last night at President Quirino's bidding, to map defence and internal security measures.

The deliberations in Malacan Palace of the Council of State and National Security Council were not divulged officially, but it was reported that the two top security organs had decided on immediate activation of the pre-war civilian emergency administration and bolstering of the armed forces with additional combat teams to intensify the campaign against the Huks.

Earlier, the Philippine Cabinet had adopted measure to cope with a possible national emergency arising from the critical situation in the Far East. The Cabinet ordered a ban on the sailing of Philippine vessels to Chinese Communist ports, in evident retaliation against Red China's action severing economic relations with the Philippines, the United States and Canada.

The action of the Cabinet stops all attempts to export strategic materials to Communist Chinese ports.—United Press.

Kashmir Still A Dangerous Issue

London, Dec. 19.

The Times said today that discussion of Kashmir at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting here next month could hardly be avoided despite the unwritten rule that member disputes are not discussed at normal sessions.

It said, "The Prime Ministers will gather at a time of undoubted danger and as soon as they turn to examine the dangers threatening Southern Asia, the Ministers are confronted with the knowledge that neither India nor Pakistan can settle its differences."

"Mr. Nehru could not have played his great part in Asian diplomacy if he did not know the need for resisting outright aggression and the need for having a secure base for resistance. Such a base cannot exist so long as his country and its neighbour devote so much of their armed strength to their common frontiers. What is certain is that if the Kashmir dispute is entirely ignored in London it will go at once before the Security Council, where attitudes may be fatally hardened again."

The Manchester Guardian paid tribute to the late Vallabhai Patel and wondered whether his successors would be able to maintain political harmony with the group led by Mr. Nehru. "Of the late Patel, it can be said that the only 'blisservice' which he did his country since it gained its independence was to die at a very critical moment," said the Guardian.

"Nehru is always on the side of humanity and, except where his Kashmir homeland is concerned, usually on the side of sound reason. Now that Mr. Patel is dead, his responsibility must outweigh even his enterprising spirit. Under their leadership their wing of Congress was the standardising force in India. But who will control it now? It is easy to see disaster if the success of the Indian Union is left to the hands of the present leadership."

"IKE" STILL IN RUNNING FOR NOMINATION

Washington, Dec. 19.

General Dwight Eisenhower's new military command will not disqualify him from the Republican Presidential nomination in 1952. No one is counting him out of politics merely because he is named head of Western Europe's defence against Communism.

Since Governor Thomas Dewey was struck out in 1948 as Republican presidential candidate there has been a growing Republican boom for Ike. There is opposition, too. But for the present the movement has gone too far to be stopped before the Republican Convention by anyone except the General himself.

There is neither established tradition nor law against putting a military man in the White House. Under those circumstances the General's boosters can whip it up for him during the next 18 months just as loudly as if he were in civilian clothing administering his duties as President of Columbia University. Ike has been a General throughout his tenure at the university. He and other five-star commanders of World War II were not retired when their time came. The top brass was maintained on the military pay roll and in a semi-active status. They were entitled to the services of an aide, military office and, if desired, military transportation.

But his new job will silence General Eisenhower politically. Since accepting Columbia's Presidency in 1948, Ike has made speeches which showed increasingly his disagreement with the Truman Administration and Democratic policies. Left-wingers were trying to nominate the General for President on a Democratic ticket in 1948. They were shocked and angered when they finally found out his views on public questions.

In his European defence post, General Eisenhower will not be able to make more speeches like that. But he has already caught the Republican ear. The Governor got in front of the Eisenhower parade in mid-October. Mr Dewey said he was for Ike for President. He said Ike's political philosophy was right.

Unless Mr Dewey decides to run himself, absence of his candidate in Europe will not make any difference. Mr Dewey admitted in October that he did not know whether Ike was a Republican.—United Press.

IKE PICKS CHIEF OF STAFF

Washington, Dec. 19. A few hours after General Eisenhower's appointment as Supreme Commander of the Atlantic army, Columbia University granted the General "indefinite leave of absence with the understanding that he will return as President of the University immediately upon his military release."

Meanwhile, General Eisenhower announced at St. Louis that he will appoint Lieutenant-General Alfred Gruenther, the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations, his Chief of Staff. General Gruenther, 51, was

Deputy Chief of Staff to the Third Army early in World War II when General Eisenhower was its Chief of Staff.—United Press.

"ONE PROBLEM"

St. Louis, Dec. 19.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, who has just been appointed Atlantic Pact Supreme Commander, told reporters here today that international peace was "the one important problem of our times."

He stressed that the purpose of the international force which was to be created was to maintain peace.

The General was in a serious mood as he talked to the press.

When a photographer asked him to smile for a picture he refused, saying, "I don't see much to smile about."

Asked if he was hopeful that peace could be preserved, General Eisenhower replied that, of course, he was hopeful but it was not going to be easy and it was not going to be quick.

"This is a new and very grave responsibility for the United States," he declared.

DUTY FOR AMERICA

"This should be a period of study, soul-searching and sacrifices," he added.

"The big word in America should be duty for all of us," he stated.

After seeing officials in Europe, General Eisenhower will return to the United States for a short while.

The General said that he did not know where his European headquarters would be.

Asked how long he thought his new assignment would last he said that he had no idea at present.

The General said that he did not have enough information on whether the European countries would go all out to build their armies.—Reuter.

Was He Burned Up?

Sydney, Dec. 19.

A Jewish immigrant in the Italian ship Napoli tried to smuggle 200 American dollars into Australia by hiding them in his mattress, not knowing that all mattresses were sent to quarantine when ships arrived here.

When he inquired later for his mattress he learnt it had been burnt.—Reuter.



One of the first things shapely Yvonne de Carlo did at her London hotel was to telephone Beverley Hills, California, to make enquiries about a new house that she has just bought there. Beautiful Miss de Carlo, described by Hollywood as the "most beautiful woman in the world," is to spend nine months in Britain making a comedy film "Hotel Sahara."—Central Press.

Truman "Refuses" To Dismiss Mr Dean Acheson

Washington, Dec. 19.

President Truman said today that he refused to dismiss Mr Dean Acheson, the Secretary of State.

He made that statement at a Press conference when asked about the demands from Republicans in Congress for him to dismiss Mr Acheson.

President Truman said that if Communism were to prevail Mr Acheson would be one of the first, if not the first, men to be shot by the enemies of liberty and Christianity.

President Truman took the unusual step of reading a lengthy statement to his Press conference at dictation speed, pointing out how Mr Acheson had consistently been an enemy of Communism for years and how Communism would be served by his dismissal.

President Truman told the conference that the policy of the United States had not changed since he took office though four Secretaries of State had served under him.

Mr Truman said that the personalities engaged in the last Congressional campaign were vicious and he regretted it. He was referring to attacks on Mr Acheson by a large number of Republicans during the November elections.

The President added that this was not the way he believed the two-party system should work.

NO ISOLATIONISM

In a discussion which followed the reading of his statement, President Truman denied that there was any wave of isolationism sweeping across the United States.

He agreed with one correspondent that a large part of the mail reaching the White House could be summed up in

one word "Fight." He said that all the people were behind the Government.

President Truman said that General George Marshall, the Secretary of Defence, would continue in his present office. He was questioned about a Press report that General Marshall was likely to step down from his Cabinet post early next year because of ill-health.—Reuter.

2 US PLANES MISSING

Tokyo, Dec. 19.

Two United States Service planes carrying 48 men between them were reported to be missing today in the Pacific. An Air Force C-54 transport with 30 passengers and a crew of seven was lost between Okinawa and the Clark Air Force base in the Philippines.

A twin-engine Navy patrol bomber with 11 men aboard vanished on a tactical training flight from the Whidbey Island naval air station near Seattle. It was presumed down hundred of miles out in the Pacific. The C-54 broke off contact only 35 minutes from its destination.

Sea and air craft joined in the search for the missing planes.—Reuter.

Melbourne Man Lives On Grass

Melbourne, Dec. 19.

The main diet of 28-year-old Bert Dean, of South Melbourne, is grass, but since the drought he is eating seaweed, fresh flowers, seaweed jelly, sour milk and sea water.

For nine months of the year, his weekly budget for extras is two shillings, but during the summer it is about 10 shillings.

"I have not had a cold or any illness since I started grazing," said Bert.—Reuter.

WITHDRAWAL FROM OUTPOST

Saigon, Dec. 19.

The French outpost at Dinhlap, 90 miles northeast of Hanoi, has withdrawn several miles to the southeast to enable the French forces to defend a more suitable terrain, a French military spokesman here said today.

In Cochinchina, French troops killed 27 Vietnamese troops and captured 42, he said. The French authorities thought the Vietnamese had lost 50 killed and 100 wounded in the Quangtai sector, where clearing operations have been going on for the past week.

The evacuation of Dinhlap by the French was announced on October 30. They had re-occupied it the day after.—Reuter.

Thirsty Dockers

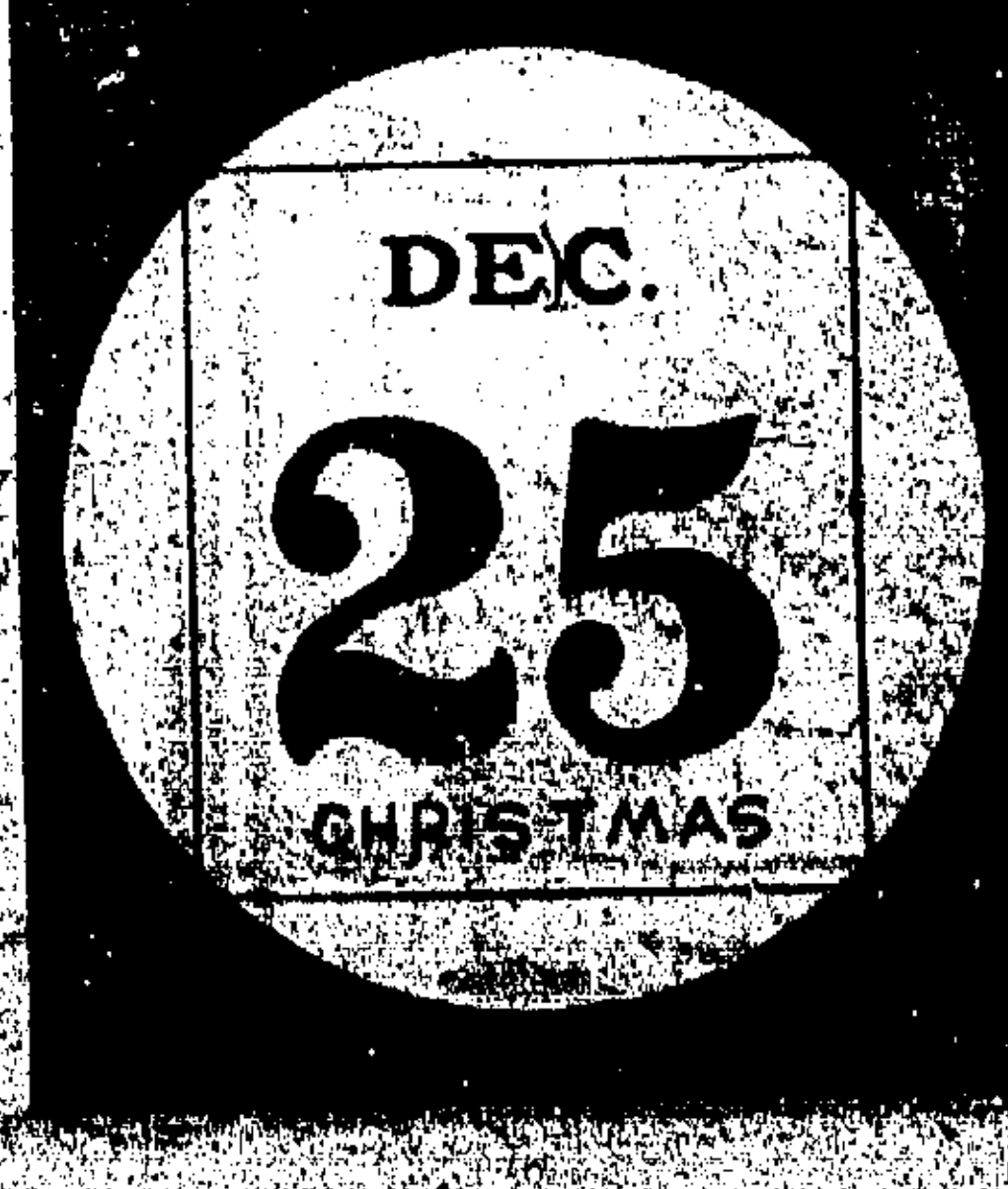
Adelaide, Dec. 19.

Dockers at Port Adelaide refused to load beer consigned to Western Australia on an interstate liner.

They said that it was wrong to export beer when local hotels were short of it.—Reuter.

NANCY

Daydreamer



By Ernie Bushmiller

Are English Soccer Teams Overcoached?

ASKS RAYMOND
GLENDINNING

Are English teams over-coached? That is a question always asked when their soccer failures are discussed. It cropped up again after that football fiasco at Ibrox Park.

One famous professional player made no bones about it. "Most of the English players are being dazzled with science," he said. "Their heads are dizzy trying to remember a lot of fanciful ideas."

"What's the use of carving all these pretty-to-watch patterns when everybody seems to have forgotten how to shoot."

He asserted that the art of hitting a moving ball is a fast-dying one.

A colleague who counted the League forwards' shots at Glasgow, said there were only seven worthy of the name. It is a sad commentary.

"What's your solution?" I asked. Back came the answer—"Concentrate on shooting practice. Goals count, and we

won't get them if forwards carry on with their futile cross-field moves that give defences so much time to recover. Appoint Raich Carter to teach them how."

Well, there is another recipe to add to the endless reasons given for the football decline.

WRONG METHOD

Another player said his little piece, packed with common sense. He agreed it was right that England should have a plan for their international teams. But he argued that the method was all wrong.

Instead of first preparing the plan and picking a collection of individual stars the selectors should choose their men and mould their plan round them. Passed to Lancaster Gate.

Now here is a crumb of consolation from Mitic, the Yugoslav captain. "England's forwards were especially good," he says, "but the backs' tactics were bad. They did not hold their wings or go for the ball enough. Their aim was more to protect their goal than prevent wing action."

GLASS CASE NEXT?

Wednesday's sight of a mudlarking Ditchburn fighting his way out of a milling scrum on the England goal-line before desperately hurling the ball to safety would have warmed the heart of a soccer fan of fifty years standing, whose plea for a more robust soccer game found its way into my postbag this week.

"I've seen 'em all," he says, "great goal-keepers and small, and they were infinitely greater in the days when they expected to be changed in possession, and before this Continental habit of wrapping a goalkeeper up in cotton wool was adopted by our referees. Why, the FA will be putting them in a glass case next!"

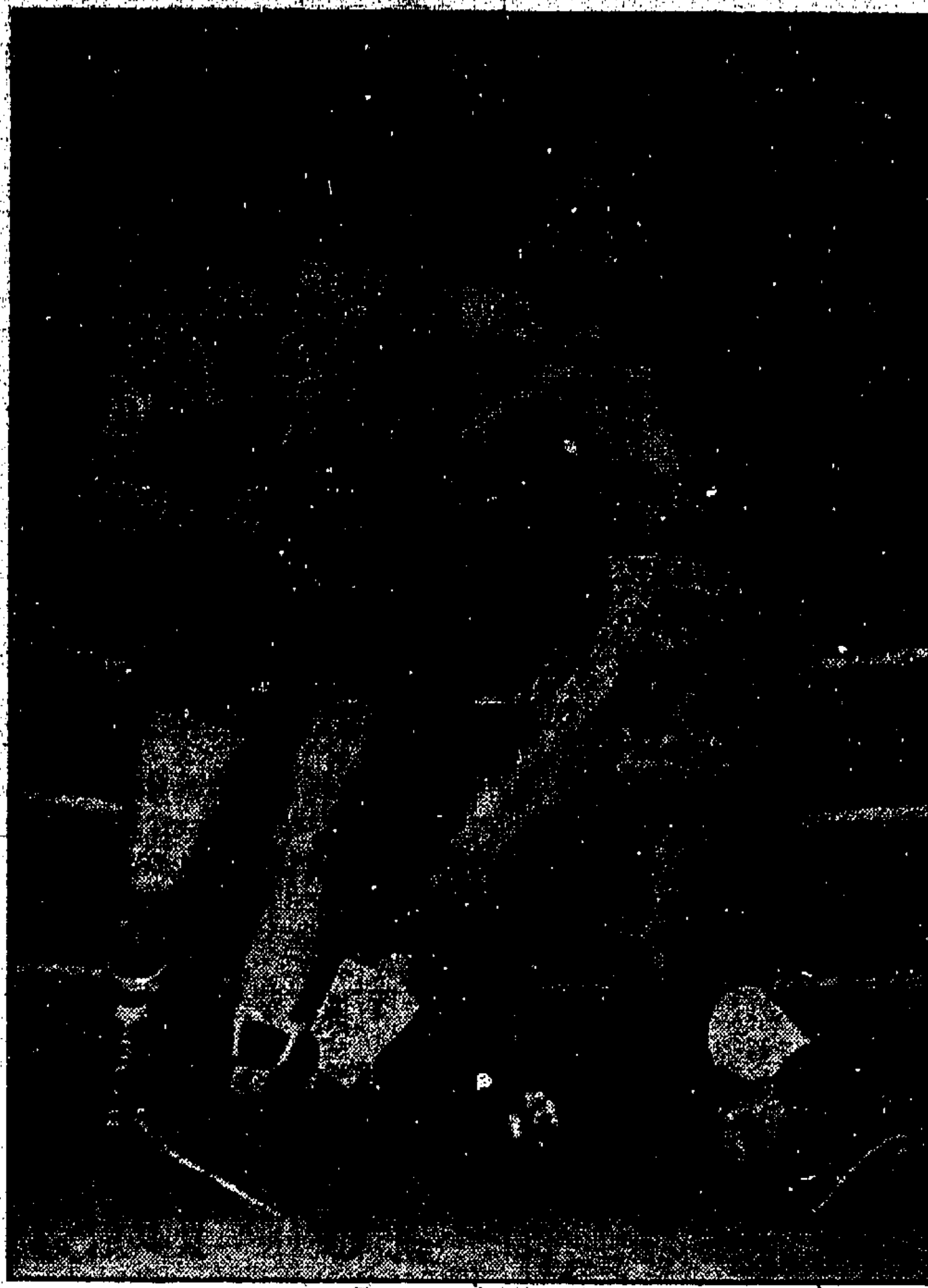
I don't think it's as bad as that, but our soccer wouldn't suffer from an injection of the old "he-man" technique.

A goalkeeper IN POSSESSION—that's important, mind you—should expect no more preferential treatment.

I'd also like to see the old hefty shoulder charge come back though nowadays anything but the most gentlemanly tackle arouses a howl of protest from the terraces.

All the players I know would prefer a little more healthy shoulder and a little less stealthy "clog."

RANDOLPH TURPIN WINS



Tommy Yarosz (left) and Randolph Turpin, both get home with a left during the fight at Harringay. Turpin won, Yarosz being disqualified in the eighth round for persistent holding.

Arsenal Have A Double Gift

Says IVAN SHARPE

It's a hardy annual, I know, to suggest that this or that Club may achieve the double event by winning Cup and League, a feat which has defeated all challengers since Aston Villa's performance in the less competitive days of 1897.

It is also the fashion, because of that long interval, to assume that double days are over.

But how near were Portsmouth only two seasons back, when they won the League Championship yet fell so unexpectedly to Leicester City in the Cup semi-final.

Between and between, Huddersfield Town in 1928 fell between two stools, and there have been other near things, including the year (1918) when the Villa, Cup winners, and Sunderland, League champions, were winners or runners-up in each competition.

TWO ASSETS

It is full early in the season to be pointing to such possibilities but, fee-a-fo-fum, I smell the blood the Arsenal tasted last April at Wembley.

They have been moving with such confidence and purpose, and with such improvement in

attack, that they must be marked as every bit as dangerous for the double honour this season as Portsmouth were in 1949.

I know this may not please the good people of Tottenham, Newcastle and elsewhere but, in the long-drawn struggles of today, style and flash count less than power and steadiness; and these gifts the Arsenal possess.

For instance, at centre-half Daniel has shown in international football for Wales that he is ready at any time to step in and ease the strain on Leslie Compton; and in attack the Arsenal's power has been increased by the departure of Denis Compton for the sunshine and shadow surrounding the England team in Australia, as I have always regarded him as a Trumper at cricket and a second-rater at Soccer.

The Sports Roundabout

By W. Capel Kirby
And David Jack

Special training time ahead. At least, that's the usual Soccer outlook with Cup-ties around. Club directors thinking along those lines might have had second thoughts if they could have heard Southend United full back Frank Walton after his club's kayo.

"Special training does more harm than good," says Frank. "More food, less sleep and sheer boredom resulted from our week's stay at a luxury hotel."

Majority of footballers still feel that the best way of training for football is with a football. The Southend lads hardly saw a ball other than when they played head-tennis in the fog after last Saturday's game had been scrubbed out.

Attempts by the home countries to bring about a united Ireland for international Soccer are being blocked by the Sunday play problem on which neither Northern Ireland nor Eire are likely to give way.

"They may be a London club but I'll wager they've as much Northern talent as most." Remark about Arsenal prompted our Highbury check-up which showed that only two hail from Lancashire. Odd men out are centre half Bill Healey, from Chorley, who, says Tom Whitaker, is "going places," and Norman Smith, ex-rear gunner from Darwen. Norman, incidentally, has one cartilage left out of four.

If Lancaster Gate supports a Barnsley proposal that professional players could become referees without going through the usual minor football channels, apart from passing the exam, look out for fireworks.

We're told the Referees' Association would guard its interests zealously, which means they would tell football folk where they could go for their minor referees and linesmen.

Three of Cardiff City's most successful forwards, Wilf Grant, Roley-Williams and Doug Blair, were nearly lost to the club a few weeks ago. Williams was going on loan to Torquay, a small fee would have secured Grant, while Blair refused to move when a big offer was made for his transfer.

Club managers who have sought the whereabouts of Alan Brown will be disappointed to learn that the former Burnley and Notts County centre half's cafe is doing very nicely, thank you.

A great player, a certificated coach and a qualified referee, yet he finds business more lucrative than football. With Soccer players price-tagged at £20,000, it doesn't make sense.

Batley's star three-quarter, John Eby, Yorkshire's Rugby League left-wing man, isn't happy. He's been playing in the centre recently, and is now insisting on a return to his normal position. No response will mean a transfer-list application.

Blackpool Pays £25,000 For Alan Brown

Blackpool, Dec. 19. Alan Brown, the Scottish international inside-forward, was today transferred from Burnley to Blackpool. The transfer fee is £25,000. The 27-year-old player is expected to be a valuable asset to the Blackpool team.

Parkhouse To Replace McIntyre?

Sydney, Dec. 19.

Improved form by Gilbert Parkhouse, the 25-year-old Glamorgan batsman, in the MCC's drawn match with an Australian XI here is almost certain to win him a place in England's team for the second Test.

His inclusion at the expense of Surrey's Arthur McIntyre is expected to be the only change from the side which lost to Australia in the rain-affected Brisbane match.

It was largely due to the fine display of pluck and character by Parkhouse and John Dewes that the MCC warded off the danger of defeat which at one time looked imminent.

When the Welshman joined Dewes with two second innings wickets down for 22 runs, the MCC were 183 runs behind with just over three and a half hours left for play.

The pitch was taking a considerable amount of spin and Compton was the only reliable batsman left in the team and even he was suffering from the handicap of his painful knee.

Dewes was determined on a policy of safety first and not until a draw was certain did he attempt anything in the nature of a forcing stroke.

He batted right through to the end, having given one chance when only three runs during a stand of nearly four hours.—Reuter.

THE GAMBOLS



Blackpool, Dec. 19. Alan Brown, the Scottish international inside-forward, was today transferred from Burnley to Blackpool. The transfer fee is £25,000. The 27-year-old player is expected to be a valuable asset to the Blackpool team.

The Churchill Story: 7th Instalment BACK FROM THE WARS

By Colin Frame

IN terms of hard cash Churchill's escape from the Boers was worth £10,000 to him. In terms of his career it was worth his heart's desire, a seat in the House of Commons.

He returned to Britain to find himself famous. There can be no complaint that financially and politically he began to cash in on this.

He lectured all over the country. Halls were crowded. At Liverpool he was paid £360 for one evening. He never earned less than £100 a lecture.

In November, 1900, the month of his 26th birthday, he earned and banked £4,500.

U.S. Tour

THEN he crossed to America with his thrilling stories. One of his chairmen there was Mark Twain. And by the time his tour was exhausted—as he was himself—he had earned a total of £10,000 in less than four months.

It was the first big money he ever had. Up till then his family had made him an allowance of £500 a year and he had lived either on his subaltern's pay or, more profitably, on his pen.

From the moment he left the Army until he inherited in 1919 a considerable amount of property left by his great-grandmother, Frances Anne, Marchioness of Londonderry, he lived entirely on the money he earned—and he lived well.

So with £10,000 invested—those were the days when MPs were not paid—Churchill felt free to make for himself a new career in politics.

His return to Oldham, where he had been defeated little more than a year before, was a riot. "See the conquering hero comes" played the band at the station. "God bless Churchill, England's noblest hero," beseeched the coloured sash of a small girl seated in the front row at his meetings.

As "The Star" of those days announced: "Oldham appears to be in some doubt whether it was Lord Roberts, Mr Winston Churchill or Bill Adams who took Pretoria."

It is not unfair to suggest that all this hero worship led to Churchill being returned as Member. Oldham was traditionally Liberal.

He stood as a Conservative. And on this occasion he was second to a Liberal in this two-seat constituency, and he beat another Liberal by only 222 votes.

"Future PM"

HIS gallantry at the train, the dash from the Boers and the work of Mr Dewsnap of Oldham had done the trick.

Victory lay in his hands and it felt good. At his second attempt he had succeeded in his youthful ambition to follow his father to the seat of government and power.

JEST A MINUTE



Never mind about feathering his nest—little turkey for a man who has just won a seat in the House of Commons!

His enthusiastic agent in America, according to Ephesian's Churchill biography, had billed him as "the future Prime Minister of Great Britain."

Churchill had been annoyed and had made him take the placard down.

But in this year of triumph he must undoubtedly have wondered whether that high office might not after all lie along his path. Forty years and thirteen more election battles were ranged ahead before the agent's prophetic billing came true.

Four of those elections were to end with his being discarded by the voters.

Yet few men have entered the House of Commons with more promise. Youth, fame and money were his already. Memories of his father, Lord Randolph Churchill, were vivid in the minds of most members.

Chip Of The Old Block

SO here, as he entered the House on the first day of the first session of a new century and a new reign, came a chip of the old block.

To grasp the full drama of the Churchill story it is necessary to recall points in the short, brilliant and finally tragic Parliamentary career of his father.

Few men tackled Gladstone in all his glory so well as Lord Randolph. Few men had such a quick mind or such a witty turn of phrase in attack.

But his attack was not levelled solely at the Liberals. He made one speech which so shocked his own side that the Duke of Marlborough, his mutton-chop-whiskered father who was a bit of a martinet, wrote apologies that he must have been "either mad or singularly affected with local champagne or claret."

It was the first faint rumbling of a rebellion which was to modernise the whole policy of the Conservative Party.

Lord Randolph, standing for what he called Tory democracy, gathered a group of MPs around him and with wit and courage made the Parliamentary lives of the Old Guard unbearable.

Winston Churchill was ten when his father captured the Tory party organisation complete, became Chancellor of the Exchequer and Leader of the House.

Then, at the height of his powers, he committed political suicide by abruptly resigning because the Services would not reduce their estimates.

For a decade he was the idol of the crowd and the most often sought of Parliamentary speakers. Then he became ill and he died when he was 45.

Mannerisms

WINSTON CHURCHILL never forgot his father's rise and fall.

With this tale in mind MPs watched young Churchill as he entered the House. He walked in the same way as his father, fast with a pronounced stoop, his hat swinging in his hand.

He had his mannerisms—twisting order papers into spills or rubbing his hand over his heart.

Where would he sit? In his father's old rebellious seat below the gangway?

Churchill did not immediately take this memorable seat. He settled down behind the Conservative Front Bench, an orthodox but not over-modest position.

Then, recorded Ephesian, as if he had been there five years instead of five minutes, he crossed his legs, tilted his hat over his eyes, thrust his hands deep in his pockets and leaned back to survey his inheritance.

In one way Winston Churchill differed completely from his

father who took little part in debates for the first three years of his career.

He rose to make his maiden speech on the third day of the session. And within two months he had made three important speeches. He was still, it appeared, in a hurry.

Maiden Speech

HIS maiden speech followed one by a rising politician on the Opposition benches—Mr Lloyd George. The subject was the Boer War.

Churchill's opening words were a modest but well-phrased jibe.

"Instead of making his violent speech without moving his moderate amendment," he said of Mr Lloyd George, "he had better have moved his amendment without making his violent speech."

He has since admitted that those words, so characteristic of one who was to take Parliamentary language by the neck and make it lure and lash and plead and pulverise as no man of his half-century has done, were not his own.

They were whispered to him by his neighbour Mr T. G. Bowles as, lost for an opening, he stood to speak.

But for the rest Churchill had prepared well. "For many years," he has admitted, "I was unable to say anything except a sentence in rejoinder that I had not written out and committed to memory beforehand."

Unorthodox

ONLY once the smooth-flowing surface of his speech was ruffled by a chill gust which heralded a storm to those Conservatives with ears pricked for echoes of Lord Randolph's rebellious voice.

Churchill referred to the Boers who were fighting in the field—"and if I were a Boer, I hope I should be fighting in the field," he cried.

This was unorthodox. It was challenging. The Treasury Bench before him swayed before the gust.

Joseph Chamberlain turned to his neighbour and whispered "That's the way to throw away seats."

But the speech in no way disappointed those who had the highest hopes of him—on both sides of the House.

"You are standing against the light," said Lloyd George to him afterwards.

No one could have realised how soon this dissimilar pair would be sitting in Opposition side by side.

STANDARD BRIDGE

By M. Harrison-Gray

Dealer: South.

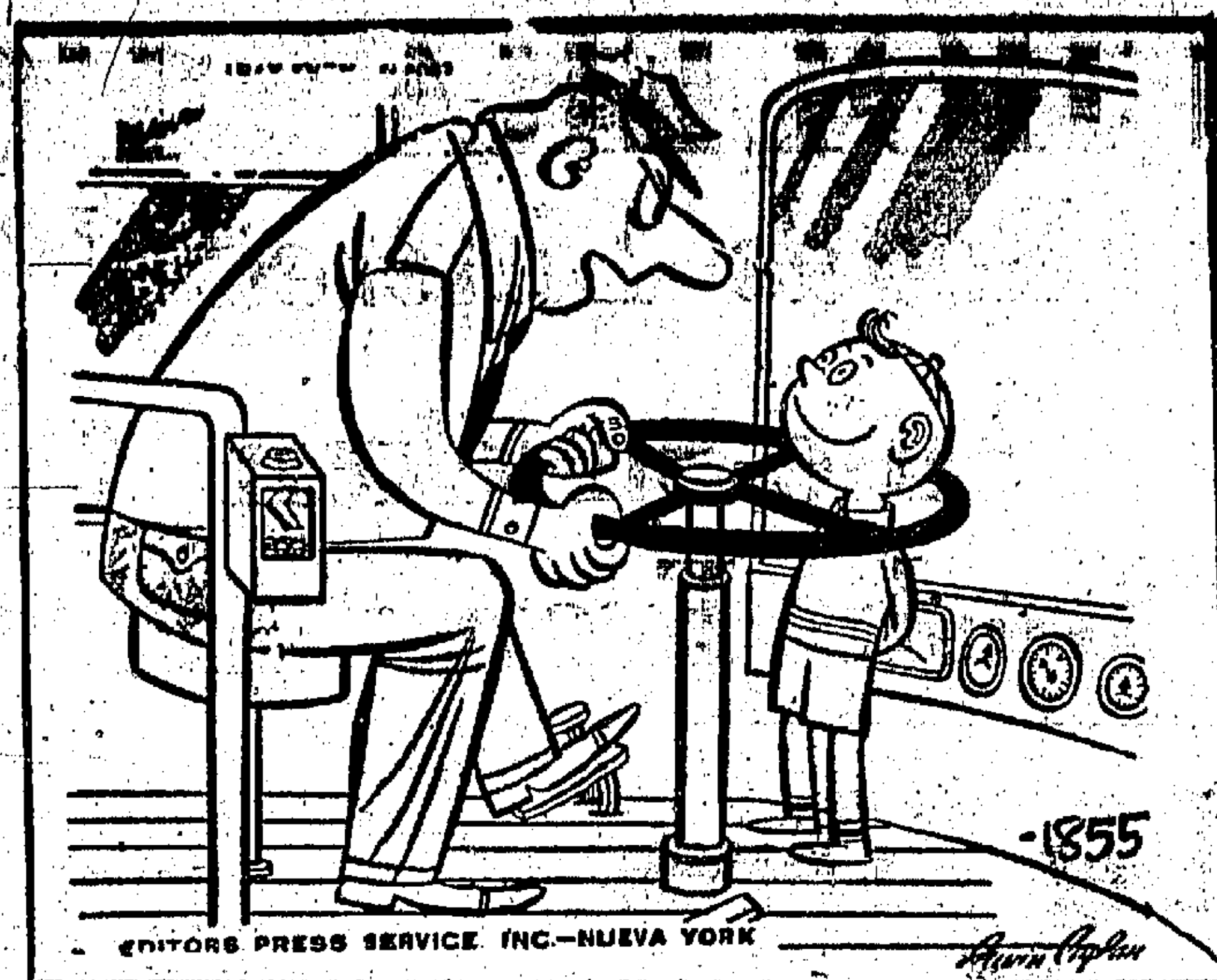
Game all.

N. 8 3
J 9 8 3
K 10 7 4
A 6 5
5 3
W. 6 5
K 10 3
K J 10 7 4
S. 4
K Q 10 5
A Q 9 8 2
4
A Q 6
E. 7 6 4
J 3
8 7 2
8 2

This enterprising slam had to be bid in the right suit. South bid One Heart, West Two Clubs and North Two Hearts. After this free raise South cautiously explored slam possibilities. His rebid of Two Spades was raised to Three Spades. North could have jumped to Four Hearts, but he realised that the hand might play better in South's shorter suit. South then bid Four Clubs and North Four Diamonds.

After this series of encouraging responses, South bid Five Spades which North raised to Six. West led A K and South made 12 tricks by ruffing two Diamonds in his own hand and discarding dummy's A 3 on the fifth Heart. If the slam is bid in Hearts, sooner or later South must take the losing Club finesse.

London Eastern Service



"Would you kindly step to the rear of the bus, please?"

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

General Motors To Be Forced To Keep Price Freeze

Washington, Dec. 19.

President Truman said today that the Government will force General Motors to abide by the orders freezing the prices of its 1951 automobiles.

The Economic Stabilisation Board, he added, will tell General Motors to wipe out the recently announced increases of the prices for the 1951 models.

Automobile workers will meet with Government officials on Wednesday to discuss wage-price relationships.

The original order to cut back prices to the March 1 level was met by General Motors with a stoppage of sales for 1951 models of Chevrolets, Pontiacs and Cadillacs.

Asked whether the Government planned to force automobile companies to sell their cars, Mr Truman said he would cross that bridge when he came to it.

The law specifies that the Government cannot compel anyone to sell anything.—United Press.

PROPOSAL REJECTED

Washington, Dec. 19.

The Economic Stabilisation Agency today rejected the General Motors proposal to end its freeze on the sale of 1951 automobiles if the Government allows them to reinstate price increases.

A spokesman for the ESA said the Agency's order to the automobile industry to roll back prices on 1951 models to the December 1st levels stands. He asked, "Who is dictating the price control of our economy—the General Motors or this Agency?"

In making the proposal, General Motors said it would be willing to make rebates to dealers and customers on its cars if an examination proves that the price increases were not justified.—United Press.

London Tin Market

London, Dec. 19.

Prices of tin closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—(Turnover was 70 tons, including five tons for cash.)

Spot tin, buyers	1,380
Spot tin, sellers	1,380
Business done at	1,380
Three-months tin	1,000
Five-months tin	1,000
Business done at	1,000
London Eastern Service	

IRREGULAR TREND IN GRAINS

Chicago, Dec. 19.

Grain futures continued irregular throughout the day's dealings and displayed great difficulty in maintaining strength. The selling and evening up of December grain and lard contracts carried grains and lard off in late dealings. Prices reached from 1-1/4 to as much as 3 cents from the early highs. This was the last day of trading in December grain and lard contracts.

Wheat futures closed 2-1/4 cents lower to 1/4 higher, corn was 1/4 lower to 1/4 higher, oats 1/2 to 1-1/4 higher and soybeans 1/2 to 1-3/4 cents lower.

Prices closed today as follows:—

Wheat—price per bushel	
Spot	2.41
December	2.31-2.40 1/2
March (1951)	2.40 1/2
May	2.45 1/2
July	2.40 1/2-1/4
Corn	
Spot	1.74
December	1.71 1/4-1.70 1/2
March (1951)	1.71 1/4-1/4
May	1.70 1/4
Oats	
December	1.64 1/2
May (1951)	1.71 1/4
Soybeans	
December	85 1/2-1/4
March (1951)	86 1/4-88
NEW YORK FLOUR—per 200 lb. sack not quoted.	

—United Press.

RUBBER IN NY

New York, Dec. 19.

Rubber futures closed today unchanged to 150 points lower with sales totalling 78 contracts. Dealers said the market remained a thin affair as traders awaited Washington developments on controls. The spot market ruled dull with quotations for Number 1 averaging around 71 cents a pound.

Prices closed today as follows:—

Spot	71
March (1951)	64.00 bid
May	62.00 bid
July	60.00 bid

—United Press.

New York Metals

New York, Dec. 19.

Prices in the metal market were closed today unchanged with the following exceptions:—Copper, 100 lb. bid, 1.01; Aluminum, 100 lb. bid, 1.01.

—United Press.

CHOLERA HORROR IN BENGAL

Roads Littered With The Corpses Of Pilgrims

Panic-Stricken Crowds In Rush From Affected Area

Big Three Meet

(Continued from Page 1)

leader on the production side comparable to General Eisenhower's military command would be appointed.

Mr Acheson urged on the Defence and Foreign Ministers of the 12 nations represented that they should place their forces under General Eisenhower.

He said that Washington would shortly announce that American forces in Germany would come under the Supreme Command.

It was at first stated that British as well as American and French occupation troops in Germany would come under the command but later a spokesman said that this was incorrect. Mr Bevin did not announce this.

"The British do not rush such decisions," the spokesman added.

THE COMMUNIQUE

The text of the communiqué was as follows:

"The North Atlantic Council, acting on recommendations of the Defence Committee, today completed the arrangements initiated in September last for the establishment in Europe of an integrated force under centralised control and command.

"This force is to be composed of contingents contributed by the participating governments.

"The Council yesterday unanimously decided to ask the President of the United States to make available General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower to serve as Supreme Commander.

"Following receipt this morning of a message from the President of the United States that he had made General Eisenhower available, the Council appointed him.

"He will assume his command and establish his headquarters in Europe early in the new year. He will have the authority to train the national units assigned to his command and to organise them into an effective integrated defence force.

"He will be supported by an international staff drawn from the nations contributing to the force.

"The Council, desiring to simplify the structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to make it more effective, asked the Council Deputies to initiate appropriate action.

"In this connection the Defence Committee, meeting separately on December 18, had already taken action to establish a Defence Production Board with greater powers than those of the Military Production and Supply Board which it supersedes.

"The new Board is charged with expanding and accelerating production and furthering the mutual use of the industrial capacities of the member nations.

"The Council also reached unanimous agreement regarding the part which Germany might assume in the common defence.

"The German participation would strengthen the defence of Europe without altering in any way the purely defensive character of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

"The Council invited the Governments of France, the United Kingdom and the United States to explore this matter with the Government of the German Federal Republic.

"The decisions taken and the measures contemplated have the sole purpose of maintaining and consolidating peace. The North Atlantic nations are determined to pursue this policy until peace is secure."—Reuter.

Calcutta, Dec. 19.

Roads to the village of Rantalai were littered today with the putrid corpses of pilgrims who had travelled to seek miraculous cures from a shepherd boy and had died of cholera.

Officials said at least 500 persons had been fatally stricken with the dreadful disease. They were the last of 250,000 people who have tailed into the remote hills of Orissa province in the last six months for a universal panacea dispensed by a 12-year-old boy, Nepal Baba.

For months the young shepherd has been distributing the bark of a tree to the lame, blind, deaf, mute and ill. Believers swore it possessed miraculous powers that cured everything from leprosy to ingrown toenails.

Nepal Baba was said to have been entrusted with distribution of the bark by a mysterious holy man, who himself had used it to cure the young shepherd of fever.

The holy man was said to have given Nepal the secret of preparing the drug and the religious rites which follow consumption of the powdered bark.

By the thousands, men, women and children have streamed into Rantalai on foot, ox-cart, mules, buses, trains and, during the past few weeks, by plane. Cholera broke out in Orissa province two weeks ago but still they came.

POWDER A FRAUD

Rantalai was not able to cope with the hordes seeking food and a place to sleep. A glass of water sold for 1/6. Medical and sanitation facilities were non-existent.

The deadly cholera germ was carried to the home of the miracle boy. The authorities, alarmed at the outbreak, instituted an investigation.

A medical committee which tested 1,500 cases, announced that the magic powder has not brought even the slightest relief in any case of serious disability or ailment.

PANIC EXODUS

The Government ordered the boy to stop dispensing the drug. They banned the flow of people into the town, but it was too late.

In the last two weeks an estimated 50,000 persons travelled to Rantalai. Today thousands who had fought to get into the village fought to get out.

Men and women were battered down as they scrambled to get aboard trains. Latest reports said the cholera outbreak was spreading like wildfire.—United Press.

US Forces In Europe

Washington, Dec. 19.

About 100,000 American ground troops are now in Europe, including combat and constabulary forces. There has been speculation that the United States might under a long-range programme eventually send over five to 10 divisions more.

The forces going over in the immediate future would, of course, be much smaller.

The United States also has three Air Force fighter groups and three B-29 (Superfortress) bombing groups in Europe. American naval forces are in the Mediterranean.—Reuter.

EXHIBITION FIRE

A small fire which broke out last night in a stall of the Chinese Manufacturers' Association's products exhibition in Kowloon, damaged five dozen exhibits. The fire brigade were called and quickly extinguished the fire.

Portuguese Ports Open To Japanese

Tokyo, Dec. 19.

The Government of Portugal has granted blanket clearance to the Japanese merchant fleet to enter and clear from all ports and harbours of Portuguese colonies in Africa, General MacArthur's headquarters announced today.

With this clearance approval, Japanese shipping is authorised to enter the ports of about 35 nations in Africa, Central and South America, Europe, North America, including Canada and the United States, and most of the nations of the Far East.

The ports of Beira and of Lourenco Marques in Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa, and the harbours of Kabinda and Angola in Portuguese West Africa will be the principal ports of call for Japanese shipping, the announcement said.

A specific clearance was also announced for Jidda (Jeddah) in Saudi Arabia by General MacArthur's headquarters for a vessel of the Shen Nippon Steamship Company Ltd., which will leave this month with a cargo of 6,600 metric tons of cement.

It has also been confirmed by the Union of South Africa that Japanese merchant shipping may call at the Union of South Africa ports for loading, discharging and husbandry, the headquarters added.—Reuter.

Counterfeiting Gang Arrested

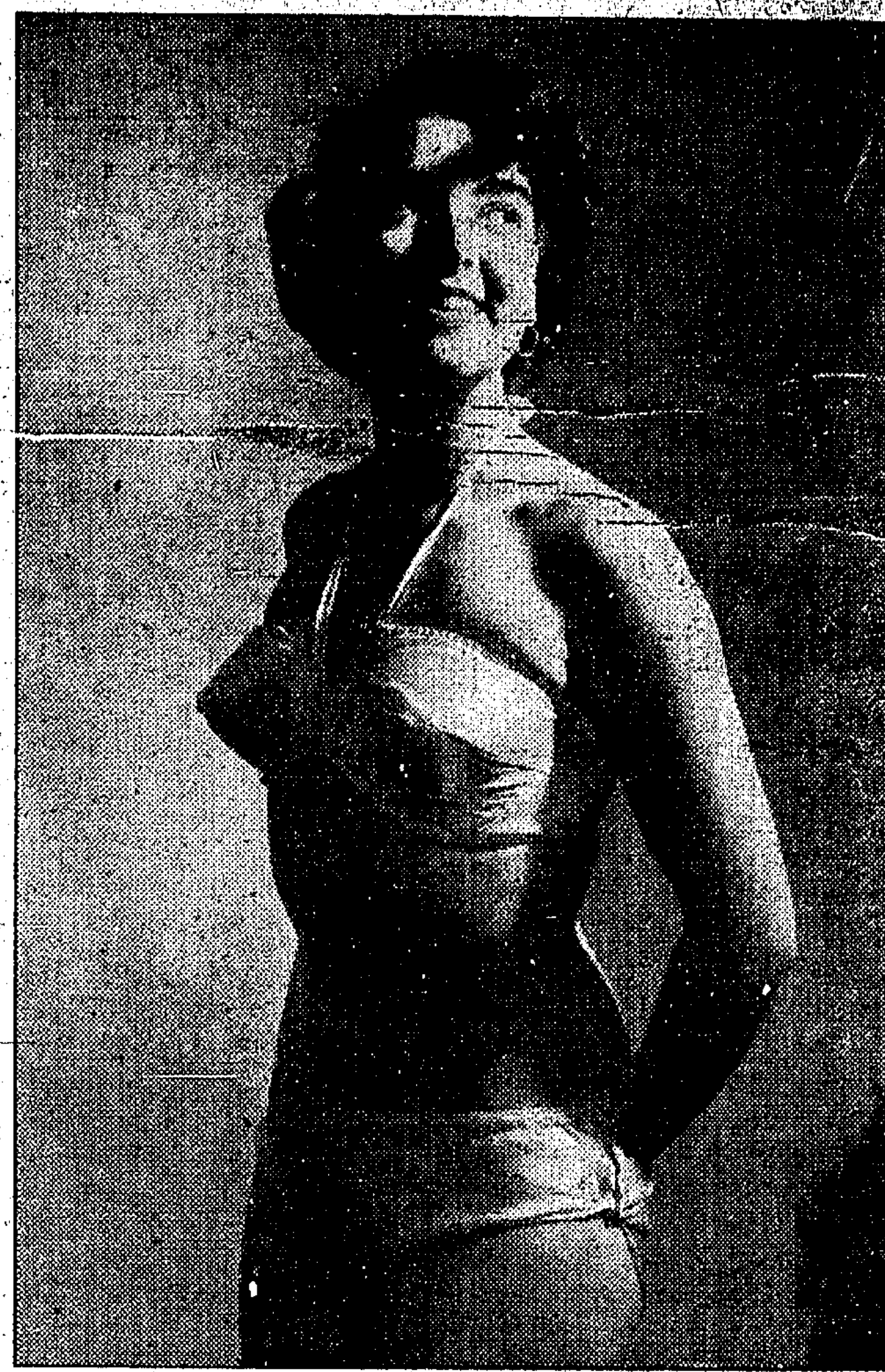
Seoul, Dec. 19.

The police authorities here today announced the arrest of five men and four women counterfeiters after raiding a secret Communist printing works and seizing more than a million forged 1,000-won (US\$25) notes.

The counterfeit gang, planted by North Korean Communists to flood the capital with fake currency, was arrested in a small house in the suburbs, where an elaborate printing and engraving plant had been installed.

Bundles of forged notes were found stacked in one of the rooms ready for distribution.

The police said that they had been hunting the gang for more than two months after a police agent reported seeing two men buying chemicals at a Seoul shop.—Reuter.



Though beauty queen Irene Whitworth, 23, is only 25in. around the waist and her hips 36in., elsewhere she has exceeded film star Jane Russell by one and a half inches. Irene is "Physical Excellence Queen" of the West Midlands.

Price Warning To Industries In US

Washington, Dec. 19.

Price Chief Michael Disalle told business and industry today to roll back prices voluntarily to the Dec. 1 levels and in some cases to pre-Korean war levels or face mandatory controls.

Mr Disalle said that in general price increases above the Dec. 1 levels will not be permitted to a manufacturer whose net profits before taxes are equal to or above his average profits in the 1946-49 period.

In distribution trade, both wholesale and retail, the gross margins—mark-up above cost—may not be increased above the June, 1950, levels if the distributor's net profit before taxes is equal to or bigger than his 1946-49 average.

Mr Disalle set those general ceilings as "fair standards" on which he will try to maintain the voluntary price control system over most of the United States economy as long as possible.

He warned that mandatory controls will be imposed wherever violations of voluntary ceilings make such action necessary.

The co-operation of business and industry will largely determine the future need for forced control.

While these standards are appropriate at this time, more severe standards may be necessary later.

The Economic Standardising Agency which draw up standards served notice that any official compulsory controls hereafter imposed will be calculated on the base period ending not later than Dec. 1.

No seller will be permitted any advantage under the regulations from price increases made after that date. Prices of certain basic materials which increased between June 24 and Dec. 1 will be rolled back in accordance with the new "fair

standards," after which it is necessary to maintain the Dec. 1 price levels in products made from those materials.—United Press.

US Air Force Call-Up

Washington, Dec. 19.

The Air Force announced today that it would call five Air National Guard and a number of supporting units into Federal service in February.

Most National Guard air groups are fighter organisations, with about 75 planes to a group.

Five Guard groups were called up in October.—Reuter.

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